

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 AF-10 ARA-16

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-11 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NASA-04

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OIC-04 SPC-03 PA-04 PRS-01

RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 AECE-00

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P R 171804Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8123

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15061

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: PROBABLE OPPOSITION TACTICS TO NPT RATIFICATION

1. A RELIABLE SOURCE IN THE CDU CLOSE TO FLOOR LEADER
CARSTENS HAS TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE OPPOSITION WILL NOT
RPT NOT SEEK A VOTE ON FIRST READING IN THE BUNDESTAG OF
THE RATIFICATION BILL OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.
INSTEAD THE OPPOSITION WILL RAISE SEVERAL QUESTIONS, TWO
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OF WHICH THEY CONSIDER IMPORTANT:

A. NUCLEAR WEAPON POSSESSION BY SUCCESSOR
STATES AND,

B. THE RIGHT OF A CURRENT NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON
STATE, WHICH REFUSES TO RATIFY THE NPT, TO
OBTAIN NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR PEACEFUL
PURPOSES FROM A NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE.

OUR SOURCE SAID THE CDU/CSU HOPES THAT THESE QUESTIONS
WILL BE SATISFACTORILY ANSWERED DURING DELIBERATION OF
THE BILL AND THAT THEREAFTER A MAJORITY OF OPPOSITION
DEPUTIES WILL VOTE FOR RATIFICATION.

2. COMMENT: SHOULD THE CDU/CSU OPPOSE BUNDESTAG
RATIFICATION OF THE NPT, IT COULD NOT SUCCEED IN BLOCKING
RATIFICATION AS THE SPD/FDP GOVERNMENT COALITION HAS A
CONSIDERABLE MARGIN IN THE BUNDESTAG; FURTHER, CONTRARY
TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF CSU LEADER STRAUSS (BONN 14948,
PARA 1), BUNDESRAT ASSENT IS NOT REQUIRED FOR NPT
RATIFICATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, BUNDESRAT ASSENT TO
THE EURATOM VERIFICATION AGREEMENT WITH IAEA IS REQUIRED.
SHOULD THE CDU/CSU UNANIMOUSLY OPPOSE RATIFICATION OF
THE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT IN THE BUNDESRAT, THEN THE
VERIFICATION AGREEMENT WOULD BE BLOCKED AND, AS STRAUSS
SAID, THE NPT COULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED. HOWEVER, THIS
STRIKES US AS A MOST UNLIKELY PROSPECT; THE CDU HAS NO
WISH TO DEFEAT THE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT. EVEN STRAUSS,
WHO WISHES TO MAKE THE NPT HOSTAGE TO THE VERIFICATION
AGREEMENT'S FATE, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE VERIFICATION
AGREEMENT WAS "EFFECTIVELY NEGOTIATED AND IS RELATIVELY
SATISFACTORY". THE REAL ISSUES ARE THE SIZE OF THE
MAJORITY THAT WILL SUPPORT RATIFICATION OF THE NPT AND
THE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT, WHETHER THE CDU/CSU WILL
GENERALLY VOTE "YES" OR "NO" ON THE TWO PACTS, AND
STRAUSS' USE OF THIS DEBATE FOR INTERNAL PARTY POWER
PURPOSES. CARSTEN'S CURRENT EXPECTATION IS THAT A
MAJORITY OF THE CDU WILL VOTE YES.
HILLENBRAND

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